


FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL



**Report of the Medical Officer
on the Health of Flintshire
including
The School Health Service
During 1973**

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nothing, certainly, and to result
in a great deal of trouble and
expense.
The result of the whole is, that
the system is not a success.

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TABLE I

Summary of the results of the experiments	
Experiment 1	1.00
Experiment 2	1.00
Experiment 3	1.00
Experiment 4	1.00
Experiment 5	1.00
Experiment 6	1.00
Experiment 7	1.00
Experiment 8	1.00
Experiment 9	1.00
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Experiment 87	1.00
Experiment 88	1.00
Experiment 89	1.00
Experiment 90	1.00
Experiment 91	1.00
Experiment 92	1.00
Experiment 93	1.00
Experiment 94	1.00
Experiment 95	1.00
Experiment 96	1.00
Experiment 97	1.00
Experiment 98	1.00
Experiment 99	1.00
Experiment 100	1.00

Health Department,
Pont y Garreg
Wrexham Street
Mold

To the Chairman and Members of the
Flintshire County Council

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

This is the last Annual Report that will be prepared covering the services provided by the health department of Flintshire County Council as in future the County Health Service will be administered by the Clwyd Area Health Authority. Indeed, as I write the report the office of County Medical Officer has ceased to exist and the health functions of the County Council have been transferred to the Clwyd Area Health Authority.

The NHS Reorganisation Act 1973 came into force on April 1st, 1974, and a great deal of time was spent in joint consultation with colleagues from Denbighshire, the hospital service and the Executive Council preparing the ground for the integration of the services provided by the three branches of the NHS. Our aim was to endeavour to maintain the level of service to patients after reorganisation whether cared for at hospital or at home. In addition, we had to take into account the need for joint working of health and social services and this also presented problems as the two Social Services Departments of Flintshire and Denbighshire were in the process of unification.

At the time of writing this introduction (June, 1974), the Clwyd Area Health Authority is in being and it speaks well for our joint efforts in 1973 and the early part of 1974, that the health services to patients were maintained during the major transition that occurred on April 1st, 1974. This was largely due to the fact that all working in the health service wanted patient care to be maintained and worked to this end - even when their future and prospects in the service were often uncertain.

Throughout this period every effort was made to keep the staff of the County Health Department informed of all developments and proposed changes and I would like to pay the highest tribute to them all for their loyalty and sense of duty in carrying on with this work throughout this period of very major changes and under considerable stress.

The vital statistics for the year are given in full later in the report and from these figures many interesting factors emerge. There was an increase of 3,700 or 2% in the population of Flintshire. The provision of housing both in the private sector and by local authorities increased during the year, there being 736 and 101 houses more respectively over the figures for 1972.

It is interesting to note that both live and still births were less than in 1972, there being 149 live births less and 15 still births less in 1973. There was also a decline in illegitimate births of 21. It may be relevant that the decrease in the number of births coincided with the larger number of women attending Family Planning Clinics.

There were 139 deaths less in 1973 (2,280 as against 2,419 in 1972) and again the main cause appeared to be heart diseases. There were 44 infants died under the age of 1 year, a mortality rate of 16.0 and 1,711 people died over the age of 65 years of which 892 were females and 819 were males.

In my working life in the health service there have been many changes. Pre 1948, medical care was very largely "private practice" - with many patients paying for treatment at home and in hospital. The NHS Service in 1948 was a very major step forward and was in essence "free" to the patient at the time of need, even though the service was administered by three different bodies. Now in 1974 the health service is unified under an Area Health Authority for Clwyd and 7 other Area Authorities covering the rest of Wales. I consider that the next major step at some future date will be to unify health and social services under one administrative body and I hope that the time is not too distant when this will take place.

It only remains for me to thank the Flintshire County Council for their support and interest in the work of the County Health Department at all times during my 20 years as County Medical

Officer and, in particular, to thank the Chairman of the Health Committee, the Clerk of the County Council and all the Chief and Senior Officers. I consider it a great privilege to have worked for the authority during this period and been permitted to introduce and develop new services to meet changing needs. I leave the service of the authority with very mixed feelings, the only consolation being that I still have close contact with Clwyd County Council, and its staff in my new post as Area Medical Officer for the Clwyd Area Health Authority.

I would once again like to thank all the staff of Flintshire Health Department and to pay tribute to them for their loyalty and hard work. To all general practitioners and hospital staff for their ready and helpful co-operation.

My thanks are especially due to Mr. G.L. Atkins, the Chief Administrative Officer of the Health Department for collating the statistical and other information contained in this report.

I have the honour to be,
Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

G. W. ROBERTS

County Medical Officer of Health

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

(a) **Population** – The population figures quoted in the report are estimated figures published by the office of Population Censuses and Surveys for mid 1973 and show yet again a substantial increase over the 1972 figures namely 3,700 or 2%. The table below sets out the population figures for 1972 and mid 1973 respectively for the district council areas.

District Councils	1972	1973	+ –	%
Flint Borough	14,860	15,070	+ 210	+ 1.4%
Buckley Urban District	12,450	12,760	+ 310	+ 2.48%
Connah’s Quay Urban District	12,640	13,360	+ 720	+ 5.69%
Holywell Urban District	8,590	8,570	– 20	– 0.2%
Mold Urban District	8,470	8,700	+ 230	+ 2.7%
Prestatyn Urban District	14,980	15,480	+ 500	+ 3.3%
Rhyl Urban District	22,010	22,150	+ 140	+ 0.63%
Hawarden Rural District	43,080	43,320	+ 240	+ 0.55%
Holywell Rural District	25,800	27,100	+ 1300	+ 5%
Maelor Rural District	4,800	4,850	+ 50	+ 1%
St. Asaph Rural District	12,270	12,290	+ 20	+ 0.16%
TOTALS	179,950	183,650	+ 3700	+ 2%

It is interesting to note that most of the increase has taken place in Holywell Rural District (1,300), Connah’s Quay Urban District (720) and Prestatyn Urban District (500). The only decrease was in Holywell Urban District which reduced by 20 persons.

If we compare the latest population with that of ten years ago, we find an increase of 31,340 – a 20% increase: over five years the increase is 17,490 – 10% and in the past twelve months the average growth of 3,000 has been exceed by 700, and in percentage terms it is exceeded in Wales only by Pembrokeshire and Anglesey.

The new Clwyd County, which will comprise Denbighshire and Flintshire, shows a total increase over the 1972 figure of 5,420 and if these figures were to be maintained until the turn of the century, Clwyd would have an estimated population of over half a million. Clwyd is surely the growth County of the future.

(b) **Housing** – During 1973, housing development continued throughout the County, there being 2,442 private houses built together with 211 houses provided by local authorities (this figure includes 29 flats provided by Holywell U.D.C.).

(c) **Vital Statistics** – Below are given details of certain statistics in respect of Flintshire which might be of interest to readers.

Vital Statistics – Flintshire 1973

Live Births	2,762
Live Birth rate per 1,000 population	15.0
Illegitimate Births	182
Illegitimate Live Births per cent of total live births	7.0
Stillbirths	44
Stillbirth rate per 1,000 live and stillbirths	16.0
Total live and stillbirths	2806
Infant deaths (under 1 year)	44
Infant Mortality rate per 1,000 live births - total	16.0
Infant Deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births	16.0

Infant Deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births	16.0
Neo-natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births (first four weeks)	10.0
Early neo-natal mortality rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births)	8.0
Perinatal mortality rate (stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and stillbirths	24.0
Total Deaths	2280
Death rate over 1,000 population	12.4
Maternal Deaths (including abortion)	1

(d) **Births** — During the year under review 2,806 births were registered as pertaining to the County as follows:—

	Live Births	Still Births	Totals
Legitimate — Male	1341	17	1358
Female	1239	22	1261
Total Legitimate	2580	39	2619
Illegitimate — Male	101	1	102
Female	81	4	85
Total Illegitimate	182	5	187
TOTAL MALES	1442	18	1460
TOTAL FEMALES	1320	26	1346
GRAND TOTAL (Males and Females)	2762	44	2806

Statistics as to the survival of these infants were forwarded to the Department of Health and Social Security by the hospital or home at which the birth occurred.

Births in the various County Districts

The following tables show the total births in the various County districts giving details of live and still births, legitimate and illegitimate births and live birth rates, etc.

BIRTHS — 1973

District	Live			Still			TOTAL		
	Legit	Illeg	Total	Legit	Illeg	Total	Legit	Illeg	Total
URBAN									
Buckley	262	11	273	2	—	2	264	11	275
Connah's Quay	253	11	264	4	—	4	257	11	268
Flint M.B.	225	15	240	5	1	6	230	16	246
Holywell	118	8	126	3	1	4	121	9	130
Mold	121	8	129	3	—	3	124	8	132
Prestatyn	146	11	157	3	—	3	149	11	160
Rhyl	211	38	249	5	—	5	216	38	254
RURAL									
Hawarden	614	51	665	8	3	11	622	54	676
Holywell	411	21	432	5	—	5	416	21	437
Maelor	67	3	70	—	—	—	67	3	70
St. Asaph	152	5	157	1	—	1	153	5	158
Total Urban	1336	102	1438	25	2	27	1361	104	1465
Total Rural	1244	80	1324	14	3	17	1258	83	1341
WHOLE COUNTY	2580	182	2762	39	5	44	2619	187	2806

Districts	Number of Births			Crude rate per 1,000 population	Area comparability factors	Local Adjusted Rate	Ratio of Column 7 to National Rate	Illegitimate Live Births % of all Live Births	Still Births per 1,000 Total Live and Still Births
	Live	Still	Total						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
URBAN									
Buckley	273	2	275	21.4	.81	17.3	1.26	4	7
Connah's Quay	264	4	268	19.8	.82	16.2	1.18	4	15
Flint M.B.	240	6	246	15.9	1.04	16.6	1.20	6	24
Holywell	126	4	130	14.7	.96	14.1	1.03	6	31
Mold	129	3	132	14.8	.95	14.1	1.02	6	23
Prestatyn	157	3	160	10.1	1.23	12.5	.91	7	19
Rhyl	249	5	254	11.2	1.14	12.8	.93	15	20
RURAL									
Hawarden	665	11	676	15.4	1.00	15.4	1.12	8	16
Holywell	432	5	437	15.9	1.04	16.6	1.21	5	11
Maelor	70	—	70	14.4	1.08	15.6	1.13	4	N/A
St. Asaph	157	1	158	12.8	1.04	13.3	.97	3	6
Total Urban	1438	27	1465	15.0	.99	14.8	1.08	7	18
Total Rural	1324	17	1341	15.1	1.02	15.4	1.12	6	13
WHOLE COUNTY	2762	44	2806	15.0	1.01	15.2	1.10	7	16
Rates for England and Wales				13.7	1.00	13.7	1.00	9	12

Compared with 1972, these figures show a decrease of 149 live births and an increase of 15 still births, the total births thus showing a decrease of 134.

The live birth rate per 1,000 population in 1973 was 15.0, which is slightly higher than the rate for England and Wales, namely 13.7.

The stillbirth rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births was 16, compared with 10.0 in 1972. The rate of 16 was, however, higher than that for England and Wales, namely 12, which remained unchanged.

Illegitimate Births fluctuate from year to year and the figures quoted below indicate the changes:—

per 1,000 total births

1955	40.00
1960	41.92
1965	60.74
1970	62.45
1971	67.60
1972	69.73
1973	66.64

Premature Births — All babies weighing 5½ lbs or less at birth are classified as “premature” irrespective of period of gestation. The following table refers to notified births after correction for transfers so it is unnecessary for me to comment on the premature births as the information is fairly presented.

Weight at Birth	Live Births												Stillbirths		
	Born in Hospital				Born at home or in a nursing home										
					Nursed, entirely at home or in a nursing home				Transferred to hospital on or before 28th day						
	Total Births	Died			Total Births	Died			Total Births	Died				Born	
		within 24 hours of birth	in 1 and under 7 days	in 7 and under 28 days		within 24 hours of birth	in 1 and under 7 days	in 7 and under 28 days		within 24 hours of birth	in 1 and under 7 days	in 7 and under 28 days		in hospital	at home or in a nursing home
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	
1. 2lb 3oz or less	3	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	
2. Over 2lb 3oz up to and including 3lb.4oz.	6	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	
3. Over 3lb 4oz up to and including 4lb 6 oz	20	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	
4. Over 4lb 6 oz up to and including 4lb 15 oz	37	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	
5. Over 4lb 15oz up to and including 5lb 8oz	51	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	1	
6. Total	117	5	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	16	1	

1=1,000g, or less; 2= 1,001-1,500g; 3= 1,501-2,000g; 4= 2,001-2,250g; 5= 2,251-2,500g.

(e) Deaths — The total number of deaths occurring in the County during 1973 was 2280 of which 1,178 were males and 1,102 were females. The numbers of deaths occurring in the various age groups were as follows:—

Sex	Under 4 weeks	4 weeks & under 1 year	1-4	5-14	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	75 or over
Males	18	10	1	4	14	8	24	89	191	390	421
Females	11	5	1	3	3	11	17	36	123	260	632
Total	29	15	2	7	17	19	41	125	314	658	1053

(i) Causes of Deaths – The following table gives details of the causes of deaths:–

DEATHS (GENERAL) 1973 – SUMMARY OF CAUSES

Cause of Death	Males	Females	Total
Enteritis and other Diarrhoeal Diseases	4	1	5
Late effects of Respiratory Tuberculosis	3	—	3
Other Tuberculosis	1	—	1
Other Infectious and Parasitic Diseases	—	3	3
Malignant Neoplasm —			
Buccal Cavity, etc.	2	1	3
Oesophagus	8	10	18
Stomach	43	24	67
Intestine	25	36	61
Larynx	1	—	1
Lung Bronchus	83	19	102
Breast	—	39	39
Uterus	—	20	20
Prostate	18	—	18
Leukaemia	6	6	12
Other Malignant Neoplasms	46	62	108
Benign and Unspecified Neoplasms	8	2	10
Diabetes Mellitus	5	11	16
Anaemias	3	5	8
Other Endocrine etc., Diseases	1	5	6
Mental Disorders	2	—	2
Multiple Sclerosis	1	2	3
Other Diseases of the Nervous System	8	12	20
Chronic Rheumatism			
Heart Disease	5	24	29
Hypertensive Disease	16	24	40
Ischaemic Heart Disease	368	244	612
Other forms of Heart Disease	28	60	88
Abortion	—	1	1
Cerebrovascular Disease	140	253	393
Other Disease of Circulatory System	49	43	92
Influenza	4	5	9
Pneumonia	66	54	120
Bronchitis and Emphysema	100	15	115
Asthma	1	2	3
Other Disease of Respiratory System	7	6	13
Peptic Ulcer	4	4	8
Disease of Skin Subcutaneous Tissue	1	—	1
Intestinal Obstruction and Hernia	3	4	7
Cirrhosis of Liver	2	6	8
Other Disease of Digestive System	10	14	24
Nephritis and Nephrosis	7	8	15
Hyperplasia of Prostate	6	—	6
Other Diseases —			
Genito - Urinary System	9	7	16
Diseases of Musculo —			
Skeletal System	8	8	16
Congenital Anomalies	5	8	13
Birth Injury, Difficult Labour etc.	9	6	15
Other Causes of Perinatal Mortality	5	—	5
Symptoms and Ill-defined conditions	3	8	11
Motor Vehicle Accidents	28	11	39
All Other Accidents	20	21	41
Suicide and Self-inflicted	5	4	9
All other External Causes	1	4	5
TOTALS	1178	1102	2280

Once again, in 1973 heart diseases were the cause of the largest number of deaths, there being a total of 700 (396 males and 304 females).

(ii) **Deaths from Infectious Disease** – Deaths attributable to infectious diseases amounted to 249 during 1973. This figure is analysed below:—

Disease	Males	Females	Total
Enteritis and other Diarrhoeal Disease	4	1	5
Influenza	4	5	9
Pneumonia	66	54	120
Bronchitis and Emphysema	100	15	115
TOTAL	174	75	249

The following information is extracted from the statistics supplied by the office of Population, Censuses and Surveys:—

Age Groups	URBAN			RURAL			GRAND TOTAL	
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Deaths in Age group 45 to 64	147	99	246	133	60	193	280	159
Deaths in Age group 65 and over	430	532	962	389	360	749	819	892
TOTALS	577	631	1208	522	420	952	1099	1051

(iii) **Deaths of Infants aged under Twelve Months** – During 1973, 44 infants died before attaining the age of twelve months, of these 28 were males and 16 were females. Of these 44 deaths, 29 occurred during the first four weeks and 15 between the fourth week and twelve months.

The causes of death of these 44 infants are given below:—

Cause of Death	Male	Female	Total
Enteritis and other Diarrhoeal Disease	3	—	3
Other Malignant Neoplasms	1	—	1
Pneumonia	2	2	4
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	2	2	4
Intestinal Obstruction and Hernia	—	1	1
Congenital Anomalies	5	4	9
Difficult Delivery and/or Anoxic Conditions	9	6	15
Other causes of Perinatal Mortality	5	—	5
All other accidents	1	—	1
Other Disease of the Nervous System	—	1	1
TOTALS	28	16	44

(iv) **Deaths from Tuberculosis 1973** – The following table shows the number of deaths from Tuberculosis in 1973:—

Cause of Death	Male	Female	Total
Late effects of Respiratory Tuberculosis	3	—	3
Other Tuberculosis	1	—	1
TOTALS	4	—	4

HEALTH SERVICES PROVIDED IN THE COUNTY

During 1973, the Health Department of the Flintshire County Council continued to provide the various statutory services required under Sections 21 to 28 inclusive of the NHS Act, 1946, together with other ancillary services. A brief note is given below on each of the statutory services.

Section 21 - Health Centres — Active planning continued during the year on the proposed health centre at Buckley and it is hoped that work on the project will begin early in 1974.

Section 22 - Care of Expectant and Nursing Mothers and Children under school age — During the year, the department continued to provide the numerous services under this section which included, amongst other things, ante-natal and post-natal clinics, family planning, screening, health education, child health centres and welfare foods. For the information of readers certain statistics are listed below in respect of clinics and the family planning service.

Ante-Natal, Post-Natal and Child Health Clinics — These clinics, as in previous years, were well attended during 1973 and the following tables indicate the volume of work done during the year:—

Ante-Natal and Post-Natal Clinics					
	Connah's Quay	Holywell	Mold	Rhyl	TOTAL
A. Ante-Natal Clinics					
1. Number of Sessions	51	52	51	52	206
2. Number of patients attending for first time this year.	264	377	103	456	1200
3. Total attendances	1569	2010	1452	2063	7094

B. Post Natal Examinations

During 1973, there was a total of 76 post-natal examinations held at the various clinics throughout the County.

Child Health Clinics — 1973					
	Born in 1973		Born in 1972	Born in 1968-71	Total
1. Number of children attending during the year	2084		1865	1116	5065
	Medical Officers	Health Visitors	G.P.s employed on sessional basis	Hospital Medical Staff	Total
2. Number of sessions held during the year	413	475	62	—	950
3. Number of Registered Live Births during the year was 2,762.					

Family Planning and Vasectomy

(a) **Family Planning** – In 1973, six clinics were used to provide the family planning service throughout the County. From the figures quoted in the table below it can be seen that the demand for this service is again increasing.

Clinic	No. of Sessions held	No. of Patients	Total Attendance
Connah's Quay	51	595	1097
Flint	75	554	1001
Mold	103	1191	2159
Prestatyn	53	615	1107
Rhyl	100	1054	2098
St. Asaph	6	12	22
Totals	388	4021	7484
1972 Figures	333	2405	5661

(b) **Vasectomy** – In October 1972, the NHS (Family Planning) Amendment Act, 1972, received Royal Assent. The main purpose of this Act was to place vasectomy on the same basis as other contraceptive services which local health authorities could provide with the approval of the Secretary of State. Approval to the making of arrangements for this purpose was accordingly given by the Secretary of State.

Early in 1973, the County Council started a Vasectomy Scheme which is carried out by a general practitioner on behalf of the County on a sessional basis, the counselling of patients and the operation being carried out at one of the clinics. During the year there were 160 operations performed.

Section 23 - Midwifery Service: Section 24 - Health Visiting: Section 25 - Home Nursing – During 1973, the midwifery, health visiting and home nursing services continued to expand and provide the high degree of service expected throughout the County.

Section 23 - Midwifery Service – The number of births notified in the County during the year under Section 23 of the Public Health Act, 1946, and adjusted by transferred notification are as quoted below:—

Place of Birth	Live Births adjusted	Stillbirths adjusted	Total Births adjusted
Domiciliary	30	3	33
Institutional	2732	35	2767
Total	2762	38	2800
Number of cases delivered in hospitals and other institutions but discharged and attended by domiciliary midwives		Discharged within	
		2 days	295
		3-7 days	1911
		8 or more days	561
		Total	2767

Section 24 - Health Visiting – Figures in relation to the number of cases and types visited by health visitors, details of health education sessions and number and type of case conferences held during 1973 are given overleaf:—

Health Visiting – Cases seen by Health and Tuberculosis Visitors during 1973

Type of Case		Total Number of cases seen	Number of cases included in col. (1) seen at special request of:—	
		(1)	Hospital (2)	G.P. (3)
1.	Children born in 1973	2951	23	44
2.	Other children aged under 5	5128	18	150
3.	Persons aged between 5 and 16 seen as part of health visiting, (ie. excluding those seen as part of school health service)	1044	27	184
4.	Persons aged between 17 and 64	6519	190	649
5.	Persons aged 65 and over	3334	385	1312
6.	Households visited on account of tuberculosis	13	1	6
7.	Households visited on account of other infectious diseases	167	—	41
8.	Households visited for any other reason	522	16	90
9.	TOTAL	19678	660	2476
Number of persons included in lines 1-5 above who are:—		10. Mentally handicapped 138	2	25
		11. Mentally Ill 290	12	109

Health Education Sessions

Number of health education sessions attended by health visitors:—	At health centres	87
	At GP premises (excluding those in health centres)	71
	At maternity and child health centres	346
	At school	218
	In Hospital	47
	Elsewhere	122
TOTAL		891
Number of health education sessions attended by school nurses		850

Case Conferences (30 minute duration)

Number of case conferences attended by health visitors with:—	Social Workers	3338
	Hospital Staff	1337
	General Practitioners	3503
	Any combination of above	295
	Others (ie none of the above present)	2111
TOTAL		10584

Section 25 - Home Nursing — Once again, the home nursing services continued to provide the high standard of nursing care to the community by providing treatment for patients discharged from hospital.

Details of cases visited during the year were as follows:—

Place where first treatment during year by the home nurse took place	Number of persons treated during the year aged:—			
	Under 5	5 - 64	65 and over	Total
Patients Homes	404	2842	5335	8581
Health Centres	354	693	254	1301
G.Ps. Surgeries (excluding Health centres)	1852	3076	1675	6603
Maternity and Child Health Centres	30	35	—	65
Hospital	—	—	—	—
Residential Homes	—	1	3	4
Elsewhere	1	11	4	16
TOTALS	2641	6658	7271	16570

During the year a comprehensive programme of training of nursing staff continued to keep them abreast of the rapidly changing techniques and to prepare them for the reorganisation.

Section 26 - Vaccination and Immunisation — During the year, the computer controlled scheme continued to operate successfully in connection with the immunisation and vaccination programmes, For information purposes, I give below details of the various vaccinations carried out during 1973, divided into two categories, namely, those to persons under 16 years who underwent the complete primary course and those of the same age group who had reinforced doses.

VACCINATION OF PERSONS UNDER 16 COMPLETED DURING 1973

Part 1 — Completed Primary Courses

Type of Vaccine or Dose	Year of Birth						Total
	1973	1972	1971	1970	1966-1969	Others under age 16	
1. Quadruple D.T.P.P.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2. Triple D.T.P.	276	3911	348	29	5	1	4570
3. Diphtheria/Pertussis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
4. Diphtheria/Tetanus	2	24	10	65	4	4	109
5. Diphtheria	—	—	2	—	—	—	2
6. Pertussis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
7. Tetanus	—	—	2	9	—	68	79
8. Salk	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
9. Sabin	276	3943	370	102	11	10	4712
10. Measles	3	2926	730	73	10	9	3751
11. Rubella	—	—	—	—	—	1150	1150
12. Lines 1+2+3+4+5 (Diphtheria)	278	3935	360	94	9	5	4681
13. Lines 1+2+3+6 (Whooping Cough)	276	3911	348	29	5	1	4510
14. Lines 1+2+4+7 (Tetanus)	278	3935	360	103	9	73	4758
15. Lines 1+8+9 (Polio)	276	3943	370	102	11	10	4712

Part 2 – Reinforcing Doses

Type of Vaccine or Dose	Year of Birth						Total
	1973	1972	1971	1970	1966-1969	Others under age 16	
1. Quadruple D.T.P.P.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2. Triple D.T.P.	—	5	24	62	33	13	137
3. Diphtheria/Pertussis	—	—	—	1	—	2	3
4. Diphtheria/Tetanus	—	30	1101	2128	113	10	3382
5. Diphtheria	—	—	—	5	—	1	6
6. Pertussis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
7. Tetanus	—	—	—	18	—	123	141
8. Salk	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
9. Sabin	2	42	1123	2194	149	52	3562
10. Lines 1+2+3+4+5 (Diphtheria)	—	35	1125	2196	146	26	3528
11. Lines 1+2+3+6 (Whooping Cough)	—	5	24	63	33	15	140
12. Lines 1+2+4+7 (Tetanus)	—	35	1125	2208	146	146	3660
13. Lines 1+8+9 (Polio)	2	42	1123	2194	149	52	3562

Vaccination against Rubella (German Measles) was again carried out during the year, there being 1,150 girls at school between 13 and 14 years of age vaccinated.

BCG Vaccination work was also carried out under Section 28 of the NHS Act on contacts, children and young persons and details of this work are given below.

BCG VACCINATION AGAINST TUBERCULOSIS YEAR 1973

Number of persons vaccinated through the Authority's approved arrangements under Section 28 of the National Health Service Act.

A. Contact Scheme – (Circular 19/64 (Wales))

(i)	Number skin tested	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	146
(ii)	Number found positive	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	53
(iii)	Number found negative	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	81
(iv)	Number vaccinated	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	68

B. School Children and Students Scheme – (Circular 19/64 (Wales))

(i)	Number skin tested	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2328
(ii)	Number found positive	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	150
(iii)	Number found negative	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1965
(iv)	Number vaccinated	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2009

Section 27 – Ambulance Service

The following tables show the number of patients conveyed by ambulance and hired sitting car cases during the year 1973. Also given for the purpose of comparison are the figures for 1972 and 1955, together with the number of journeys and miles involved.

AMBULANCES

Stations	1973			1972			1955		
	Journeys	Patients	Miles	Journeys	Patients	Miles	Journeys	Patients	Miles
Mold	2862	14254	108661	3188	14481	118174			
Rhyl	3026	19162	107235	3436	18389	107811			
Queensferry	2797	11753	89083	2804	10921	94051			
Holywell	2179	11325	103511	2519	11265	103494			
Flint	1890	12009	84692	1910	12636	88950			
Hanmer	282	1766	21327	315	1776	22914			
TOTAL	13,036	70,269	514,509	14,172	69,468	525,394	8201	25,289	269,353

HIRED SITTING CASE CARS

Year	Journeys	Patients	Miles	Cost
1973	2107	3798	62559	£4176.55
1972	1761	3189	46687	£3160.32
1955	6130	14507	157643	£8137.19..

PATIENTS TRANSPORTED BY RAIL

Year	Journeys	Patients	Miles
1973	29	29	5974
1972	38	38	6862

1 Patient conveyed by AIR involving 560 miles.

OTHER SECTIONS – ANCILLARY WORK

	Journeys	Persons	Miles
Mobile Clinic Sessions		1270	4551
School Clinics	21		506
Dental Clinic	6		137
Health Department and Welfare Foods			7528
Education Department... ..	10		415
Driving Tuition and In-service Training			581
Handicapped Pupils, Ysgol Gogarth	12	56	324
Convalescent Homes			1046
Day Cases, Old People's Homes		1752	6582
Social Services Department (Other)			739
Wales and National Competitions			1161
Shows, etc.	2		21
Exercise (V.A.D., Holywell)	1		17
M.O.T. Ambulances	17		320

ESTABLISHMENT

The establishment of the Ambulance Service as at 31st December, 1973 was as follows:—

Head of Department	County Medical Officer of Health
Officer in Charge	County Ambulance Officer
Senior Section Officer (Acting Deputy CAO)	1
Senior Section Officer (Training Officer)	1
Administration Staff	3
Senior Officers (Control)	7
Ambulance Sub Officers I	2
Ambulance Sub Officers II	2
Leading Ambulancemen	10
Ambulancemen and Trainees	42
Part-time Driver (Hammer)	1
Mobile Clinic Driver	1
Workshop Staff	2
Cleaners (Part-time)	2

TRAINING

Type of Course	Location	Personnel
6-week Basic Training	Cheshire	14
1-week Hospital Training	Chester Royal Infirmary	26
2-week Refresher Training	Cheshire	11
1-week Control Officers	Staffordshire	2
Supervisor Instructor	Cheshire	8
2-week Ambulance Aid Instructor	Cheshire	11
1-week Instructor's Study	Nuffield College, Leeds	1

The statistics show an increase of 801 more patients conveyed in 1973 than in 1972 with a reduction in mileage of 20,885 miles. The reduction in mileage per patient was brought about by better deployment of resources, closer liaison with hospital staff and the industrial action that was taken by the Ambulancemen when, for 5 weeks in November and December, only emergency cases were dealt with. It would be reasonable to assume that if no industrial action had been taken about another 8,000 patients would have been conveyed.

The Flintshire Ambulance Team captured all trophies but one at the All-Wales Finals and were highly placed in the All-England Finals at Harrogate.

4 members of the operational staff resigned during the year; 3 were replaced by trainee ambulancemen. The other vacancy could not be replaced because of lack of applicants. One member retired after 14 years service and was replaced, and the establishment was increased by two during the year.

Again the absence, caused by illness, is on the increase; 1,323 days were lost. This shows an increase of 480 days over 1972 figures.

Four new vehicles were delivered, 1 Range Rover Ambulance and 3 Ford Transit, 2½ litre, V-6 with automatic transmission.

Section 28 — Prevention of Illness, Care and After-Care

Under this section the County Council continued to provide the ancillary services authorised under the Act. These services include such matters as tuberculosis, BCG vaccination, cervical smears, chiropody, and the convalescent and medical loans schemes, the latter two schemes incidentally will be transferred to the Director of Social Services of the new Clwyd County Council on 1st April, 1974, when all the other health services will become the responsibility of the new Area Health Authority for Clwyd.

To give some indication of the work carried out during the year I give below statistical tables in respect of two of the services, namely, cervical smears and chiropody.

(a) Cervical Smears – Again, during 1973, the number of women taking advantage of the very important service increased as is indicated by the following figures:—

Year	Local Health Authority	General Practitioner	FPA	Others	Total
1972	977	1854	1370	739	4940
1973	1037	2169	1526	625	5357

(b) Chiropody Service – The County Councils employs two full-time and two part-time chiropodists who carry out treatment both in clinics and in patients own homes. Details of patients and treatments during 1973 are given below:—

Number of persons treated during the year 1973

	By Local Authorities	By Voluntary Organisations	Total
Persons aged 65 and over	1834	1049	2883
Physically Handicapped and disabled under 65	17	—	17
Expectant Mothers	—	—	—
Others	27	26	53
TOTALS	1878	1075	2953

Number of treatments given during the year

	By Local Authorities	By Voluntary Organisations	Total
In Clinics	4510	82	4592
In Patient's homes	1452	2099	3551
In Old People's Homes	1508	—	1508
In Chiropodists Surgeries	—	3940	3940
TOTALS	7470	6121	13591

INFECTIOUS AND OTHER COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

In accordance with statutory regulations, reports on cases of notifiable diseases continued to be received by the County Medical Officer from the Medical Officers of Local Authorities during 1973 for which an appropriate fee was paid. The number of notifications received during the year was as follows:—

Smallpox	—
Leptospirosis	—
Diphtheria	—
Dysentery	17
Typhoid Fever	—
Infective Jaundice	1
Food Poisoning	35
Measles (excluding Rubella)	251
Acute Meningitis	6
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1
Paratyphoid Fever	—
	311

348

The number of infectious diseases notified during the year showed a decrease compared with previous years, 348 cases being reported in 1973, as against 835 in 1972. The difference of approximately 500 being attributable to less cases of measles being reported, only 251 as against 721 in 1972.

During the year, there was a decrease in the cases of dysentery notified, 17 as against 24 in 1972. Food poisoning cases are usually more serious than dysentery and the total cases occurring was probably much higher than the number notified, namely, 35 cases, as against 27 last year.

Cases of infectious illness requiring hospital treatment were admitted to accommodation at Colwyn Bay Isolation Hospital, Wrexham Isolation Unit or Clatterbridge Hospital.

Venereal Diseases – Treatment of venereal disease continued to be available at centres at Chester, St. Asaph, Wrexham and Liverpool and from the figures quoted below it can be seen that the incidence of Venereal Disease, based on the number of cases recorded, is on the decline, there being 571 cases in 1973 as against 669 during 1972.

Type of Disease	Chester	St. Asaph	Wrexham	Liverpool	Totals
Syphilis	1	2	1	—	4
Gonorrhoea	57	47	42	1	147
Other Conditions	162	111	139	8	420
Totals 1973	220	160	182	9	571
Totals 1972	222	261	174	12	669

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT

Report of the County Public Health Officer

(a) **Labelling and Composition of Food** – 561 samples of various food stuffs including drugs were submitted to the Public Analyst for chemical appraisal during the year. The Public Analyst reported adversely on 44 samples. Of these samples, reported as non-genuine 10 were instances of added water in milk, the producers being subsequently prosecuted by the County Council. 38 complaints of foreign bodies in foods were investigated and in 10 instances the manufacturers/producers were successfully prosecuted. An increased number of complaints were received from householders of milk being delivered to their homes in unclean bottles, these bottles in the majority of cases being filled at dairies outside the County boundary. Three prosecutions were initiated during the year, one in Delamere and two in Liverpool Courts against dairymen using unclean bottles, again with successful results.

(b) **Control of Milk Borne Disease** — At the end of the period under review there were 120 producer/retailers in the County licensed by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food to produce and sell untreated farm bottled milk. Again, with the valuable assistance of the Milk Testing Laboratory Service of the Ministry a total of 674 samples of milk were taken of producer/retailed milk. Compared with a figure of 54 for last year only 5 of these samples were returned as “positive culture test for Brucellosis”. This necessitated the examination of 4 milking herds, a further 84 individual cow samples were taken and 6 animals found to be producing brucella infected milk.

SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICE — 1973

During 1973, the high standard of the School Health Services in Flintshire was maintained and I give below details of vital statistics in relation to the various services provided by the health department for the school population of the County.

The number of pupils attending school at the end of 1973 was 38,043.

Medical Inspection and Treatment

A - Periodic Medical Inspections — the number of individual pupils found to require treatment at Periodic Medical Inspection are as follows:—

N.B. These figures exclude dental diseases and infestation with vermin.

Age Group inspected (by year of birth)	No. of Pupils who have received a full medical examination	PHYSICAL CONDITION OF PUPILS INSPECTED		No. of Pupils found not to warrant a medical examination (see Note above)
		Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	
		No.	No.	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
1969 and later	428	424	4	136
1968	346	344	2	616
1967	152	151	1	351
1966	66	64	2	74
1965	78	77	1	23
1964	49	49	0	28
1963	56	55	1	20
1962	33	33	0	—
1961	15	15	—	—
1960	13	13	—	—
1959	9	9	—	—
1958 and earlier	10	10	—	—
TOTAL	1,255	1,244	11	1,248
	100%	99.12%	0.88%	

(b) **Other Inspections** — there was a total of 3,690 other inspections carried out during the year, 1,687 specials and 2,003 re-inspections.

NOTES:

A special inspection is one that is carried out at the special request of a parent, doctor, nurse, teacher or other person.

A re-inspection is an inspection arising out of one of the periodic medical inspections or out of a special inspection.

C - Infestation with Vermin – The total number of individual examinations of pupils in schools by school nurses or other authorised persons during the year was 36,578, of these 2,023 individual pupils were found to be infested.

D - Eye Diseases, Defective Vision and Squints

	Number of cases known to have been dealt with
External and other, excluding errors of refraction and squint	50
Errors of refraction (including squint)	1,889
Total	1,939
Number of pupils for whom spectacles were prescribed	677

E - Diseases and Defects of Ear, Nose and Throat

	Number of cases known to have been dealt with
Received operative treatment –	
(a) for diseases of the ear	24
(b) for adenoids and chronic tonsilitis	124
(c) for other nose and throat conditions	14
Received other forms of treatment	34
Total	196
Total number of pupils still on the register of schools at 31st December, 1973 known to have been provided with hearing aids:–	
(a) during the calendar year 1973	4
(b) in previous years	43

F - Orthopaedic and Postural Defects

	Number of pupils known to have been treated
(a) Pupils treated at clinics or out-patients departments	100
(b) Pupils treated at school for postural defects	1
Total	101

G - Diseases of the Skin (excluding uncleanliness - see Table C)

	Number of pupils known to have been treated
Ringworm – (a) Scalp	1
(b) Body	–
Scabies	21
Impetigo	11
Other Skin Diseases	44
Total	77

H - Child Guidance Treatment

	Number of pupils known to have been treated
Pupils treated at Child Guidance Clinics	149

I - Speech Therapy

	Number of pupils known to have been treated
Pupils treated by speech therapist	427

J - Other Treatment Given

	Number of pupils known to have been treated
(a) Pupils with minor ailments	332
(b) Pupils who received convalescent treatment under School Health Service arrangements	—
(c) Pupils who received B.C.G. vaccination	2,009
(d) Other than (a), (b) and (c) above:	
Lymphatic Glands	16
Heart and Circulation	39
Lungs	57
Physical Development	83
Nervous System	53
Psychological Development	162

School Dental Service

Below are given vital statistics in relation to dental inspection and treatments carried out on school children during the year:—

(a) Inspections

	Number of Pupils		
	Inspected	Requiring treatment	Offered treatment
First Inspection - School	12767	) 12676	) 12089
First Inspection - Clinic	6225))
Re-inspection - School/Clinic	826	559	559
Totals	19818	13235	12648

(b) Details of the work carried out on visits and courses of treatment as detailed below include all work done by Dentists, Auxiliaries and Hygienists:—

Visits/Treatments etc.	Pupils – Age Groups			Totals
	Ages 5-9	Ages 10-14	Ages 15 & over	
i) Visits (for treatment only)				
First Visits	3513	2773	658	6944
Subsequent Visits	3344	3808	1153	8305
Total Visits	6857	6581	1811	15249
ii) Courses of Treatment				
Additional Courses commenced	268	217	58	543
Total Courses commenced	—	—	—	—
Courses completed	—	—	—	5470
iii) Treatment				
Fillings in permanent teeth	1760	4211	1856	7827
Fillings in deciduous teeth	3042	158	—	3200
Totals	4802	4369	1856	11027
Permaent teeth filled	1455	3810	1725	6990
Deciduous teeth filled	2849	145	—	2994
Totals	4304	3955	1725	9984
Permanent teeth extracted	425	1695	505	2625
Deciduous teeth extracted	5300	1349	—	6649
Totals	5725	3044	505	9274
Number of general anaesthetics	2284	1244	182	3710
Number of general anaesthetics administered by Dental Officers	—	—	—	127
Number of Emergencies	498	282	50	830
iv) Dentures				
Number of pupils fitted with dentures for the first time				
(a) with full denture	—	3	6	9
(b) with other dentures	1	20	16	37
Totals	1	23	22	46
Number of dentures supplied (first or subsequent time)	1	25	26	52

Other treatments

Number of Pupils X-rayed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	173
Prophylaxis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	878
Teeth otherwise conserved	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1045
Teeth root filled	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	22
Inlays	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Crowns	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	17

Orthodontics

New cases commenced during the year	102)	
Cases completed during the year	84)	
Cases discontinued during the year	5	)	Include cases treated by
Number of removeable appliances fitted	106	)	appliance only
Number of fixed appliances fitted	75)	
Number of pupils referred to Hospital Consultants	6		

Dental Health Education

During the year the authority once again distributed dental kits to children commencing school. This was carried out in conjunction with dental health talks given by school sisters who, in some cases, arranged for children to keep their dental kits at school to clean their teeth under supervision. Dental officers were also active giving talks to schools and being available on certain days at large comprehensive schools to give advice and carry out inspections.

